

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 1003

E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: FY 1977 MILITARY SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS - HONDURAS

REF: (A) TEGUCIGALPA 887 (DTG 181805Z FEB 76), (B) STATE 036160
(DTG 131859Z FEB 76)

THE FOLLOWING IS THE RESPONSE TO PARAGRAPH 6 OF REFTEL:

(A) THE HONDURAN MILITARY CONTINUES TO EXERCISE ULTIMATE
AUTHORITY OVER THE GOVERNMENTAL POLICIES AND PROGRAMS. IT IS
ALSO COMMITTED TO THE MODERNIZATION AND PROFESSIONALIZATION
OF GOH ARMED FORCES. U.S. EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING HAVE HIS-
TORICALLY BEEN MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO THE HONDURAN ARMED
FORCES' (HAF) PRO-U.S. ORIENTATION. HOWEVER, HONDURAS HAS
NOT BEEN RELUCTANT TO PURCHASE MILITARY EQUIPMENT OR ACCEPT
TRAINING FROM THIRD COUNTRIES WHEN THE U.S. HAS BEEN UNWILLING
OR UNABLE TO COMPLY WITH GOH DESIRES. THE REQUESTED LEVELS
OF MAP TRAINING AND FMS CREDIT WILL PROVIDE A REASONABLE
AVENUE THROUGH WHICH HONDURAS CAN OBTAIN A DEGREE OF
MODERNIZATION FOR ITS ARMED FORCES. FAILURE BY THE U.S.
TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT MAP TRAINING AND FMS CREDITS OFFERS
THIRD COUNTRIES AN OPPORTUNITY TO GAIN INFLUENCE THROUGH
MILITARY SALES, CONTINUING SERVICING OF THOSE SALES, AND
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THE PRESENCE OF TECHNICAL REPRESENTATIVES AND ADVISORS;

(B) THE PROJECTED SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, USING PRIMARILY FMS CREDIT, WILL PROVIDE FOR THE HIGHEST PRIORITY NEEDS OF HONDURAS, CASE THE DETERIORATING EQUIPMENT SITUATION AND ASSIST IN PRESERVING U.S. INFLUENCE WITH THE HAF. SINCE TRAINING AND FMS CREDIT FUNDS WILL BE DIRECTLY APPLIED TO IDENTIFIED NEEDS OF HONDURAS, THE PROGRAM SATISFIES THE CRITERIA FOR EFFECTIVENESS;

(C) IN TERMS OF DOLLARS SPENT, THE REQUESTED MAP TRAINING PRIMARILY AFFECTS THE HAF OFFICER CORPS; THE MOST IMPORTANT GROUP IN U.S.-HONDURAN RELATIONSHIPS. HOWEVER, MODERNIZATION REQUIRES INCREASED AND COSTLY TECHNICAL TRAINING AS NEW EQUIPMENT IS INTRODUCED INTO THE HAF INVENTORY. THE PROJECTED SECURITY ASSISTANCE TRAINING PROGRAM WILL ALSO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT AMOUNTS OF TECHNICAL TRAINING REQUIRED TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN PLANNED EQUIPMENT ACQUISITIONS. THE EQUIPMENT ITEMS THEMSELVES, THOUGH RELATIVELY FEW, ARE PROGRAMMED TO PROVIDE A FORCE STRUCTURE IN HONDURAS THAT IS BOTH BALANCED AND COMPLEMENTARY;

(D) U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE SUPPORTS GOH INITIATIVES OUTLINED IN ITS FIVE-YEAR (1974-78) NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN INCLUDING IMPORTANT NATIONAL POLICIES, SUCH AS AGRARIAN REFORM. AID PROGRAMS ARE HEAVILY CONCENTRATED IN THE AGRICULTURE, EDUCATION AND HEALTH AREAS BENEFITTING HONDURAS' RURAL POPULATION. AID LOAN AND GRANT PROJECTS, WHICH ARE EXPECTED TO TOTAL \$18.5 MILLION IN FY 1977, SEEK TO ENABLE AGRARIAN REFORM BENEFICIARIES AND OTHER SMALL FARMERS TO DEVELOP PROFITABLE FARM ENTERPRISES, TO IMPROVE MANAGEMENT IN GOH AGENCIES AND TO DEVELOP NON-FORMAL ADULT EDUCATION AND IMPROVE RURAL PRIMARY EDUCATION SYSTEMS. HURRICANE RECONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES (TOTAL OF \$33 MILLION IN AID LOANS AND GRANTS SINCE SEPTEMBER 1974) IN NORTHERN HONDURAS WILL BE COMPLETED IN FY 1977. IN ADDITION, AID GRANTS WILL SUPPORT GOH EFFORTS TO EXTEND INTEGRATED HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES INTO THE COUNTRYSIDE AND TO PROMOTE NON-TRADITIONAL AGRO-INDUSTRIAL EXPORTS WHICH WILL INCREASE THE DEMAND FOR SMALL PRODUCERS' GOODS;

(E) THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT MAY HELP VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES TO FINANCE SEVERAL MAJOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS: PULP AND PAPER, STEEL, AND HYDROELECTRIC POWER. IN ADDITION, HONDURAS BENEFITS FROM DEVELOPMENT LOANS FROM THE VENEZUELAN
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OIL FUND. THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT MAY BE PROVIDING GRANT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN SUCH AREAS AS FORESTRY, MINING, AGRICULTURE AND SEVERAL OTHER FIELDS; AND

(F) INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY ACTIVE IN HONDURAS OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS. THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (IDB) HAS LOAN PROGRAMS IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS, VOCATIONAL EDUCATION, HIGHWAYS AND RURAL HEALTH AND POTABLE WATER SYSTEMS. THE IDB ALSO IS PLANNING TO ASSIST IN PROVID-

ING STUDENT LOAN FUNDS, AS WELL AS PAVING THE HIGHWAY THAT
WILL OPEN THE RICH AGUAN VALLY TO DOMESTIC AND WORLD MARKETS.
THE WORLD BANK HAS LOANS IN POWER, PORT DEVELOPMENT, TEACHER
EDUCATION, MAN-POWER TRAINING, AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION, LIVE-
STOCK DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMAYAGUA VALLY. THE CENTRAL
AMERICAN BANK FOR ECONOMIC INTEGRATION (CABEI) HAS PROJECTS
IN URBAN WATER SUPPLY, URBAN HOUSING, NATIONAL HIGHWAYS, RAIL-
WROAD CONSTRUCTION, SELECTED INDUSTRIES AND TOURISM INFRA-
STRUCTURE. THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES, THE UNITED
NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, AND SEVERAL GOVERNMENTS ARE PRO-
VIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN FORESTRY, AGRICULTURAL ADMINIS-
TRATION AND GOVERNMENT BUDGET ADMINISTRATION.
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